

## ANALYTICAL PROFILE OF LIDEXANFETAMINE DIMESYLATE (VYVANSE™)

Valerie Kaus  
Johnson County Crime Lab  
Mascie, KS 66202  
Valerie.Kaus@jccgov.org

Submitted: 12 March 2008  
Accepted: 9 April 2008

## INTRODUCTION

Vyvanse™ (Lidexanfetamine dimesylate) is a drug in a new class of long-acting prodrug stimulants for Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) (Fig. 1). Vyvanse™ was approved by the FDA in February 2007 and is a Federal Schedule II controlled substance. Vyvanse™ is manufactured by New River Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and distributed by Shire, Inc.

Lidexanfetamine (aka "Lidex" or "LDX") is unique from other ADHD drugs because it is a prodrug of *d*-amphetamine designed in part to reduce the potential for abuse. A prodrug is a pharmaceutical substance which is therapeutically inactive until metabolized in the body. In the case of Vyvanse™, *d*-amphetamine is covalently linked to the amino acid *L*-lysine (Fig. 2). Once lidexanfetamine passes through the gastrointestinal tract and liver, it is converted to active *d*-amphetamine [1].

Vyvanse™ is currently supplied in three dosage strengths with the following capsule colors and logo markings.

Dosage	Capsule Colors	Imprint
10 mg	white/orange	NRP103 10 mg
20 mg	white/blue	NRP104 20 mg
30 mg	blue/orange	NRP104 30 mg

During the second quarter of 2008, three more dosage strengths (20, 40 and 60 mg) will become available for use [2].

## Examination of Reference Standard

Reference standard: A 266 mg (twelve) reference powder was obtained from Shire, Inc., and ten 30 mg capsules were purchased from a local pharmacy.

GC-MS analysis: A portion of the reference powder was dissolved in methanol. Analysis was performed on a HP 6890/5973 GC-MS (EI) with a HP-5 ms column using a ramped general temperature program.

FTIR analysis: FTIR analysis was performed using a Perkin Elmer Spectrum 100 with a single beam diamond ATR.

Alkaline hydrolysis procedure: One capsule was tested with alkaline hydrolysis to determine if amphetamine could be produced *in vivo*. The contents were made basic with saturated NaOH and heated in a 70° C water bath for approximately 30 minutes. The sample was then extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$  and analyzed by GC-MS.



Fig. 1 Lidexanfetamine dimesylate. MW~ 455.60

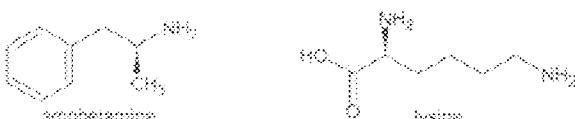


Fig. 2 Amphetamine and lysine structures

© 2008 American Academy of Forensic Sciences

## Chemical Characterization of Vyvanse® (Lisdexamfetamine Dimesylate) Powder

### Results and Discussion

Four color tests were performed on both the epoxide and reference powder with the following results:

Reagent	Color Change
Marquis	orange to brown
Liebermann's	orange
sodium nitroprusside	no color change
acidified rotsch thioacetamide	no color change

The mass spectrum (Fig. 2) of the methanol extract for lisdexamfetamine produced a base ion of m/z 83 with a molecular ion of m/z 163. Other major ions present include m/z 161, 91, 173, and 155.

FTIR-ATR data (Fig. 4) produced principle absorption bands at 1634, 1543, 1613, 1187, and 1016 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

The alkaline hydrolysis of lisdexamfetamine produced a trace of amphetamine (Figs. 3 and 5).

### Conclusion

Analytical data consisting of color tests, GC-MS and FTIR-ATR was presented to aid the analysis with the identification and confirmation of lisdexamfetamine. The alkaline hydrolysis procedure has shown that amphetamine can be cleaved from the lysine group although an appreciable amount was not produced under the stated conditions.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1. Sandra Williams, Shire, Inc. for providing the standard
2. Agent Tim McKibbon, CSH, for sharing his data

### REFERENCES

1. Vyvanse™ "Medication Guide", Shire Pharma sciculus Inc., retrieved from <http://www.vyvanse.com> on September 11, 2007.
2. Press release announcement reviewed from <http://www.shireadmelements.com> on March 3, 2008.

For more information on the use of the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* in clinical practice, see the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* Clinical Practice section.

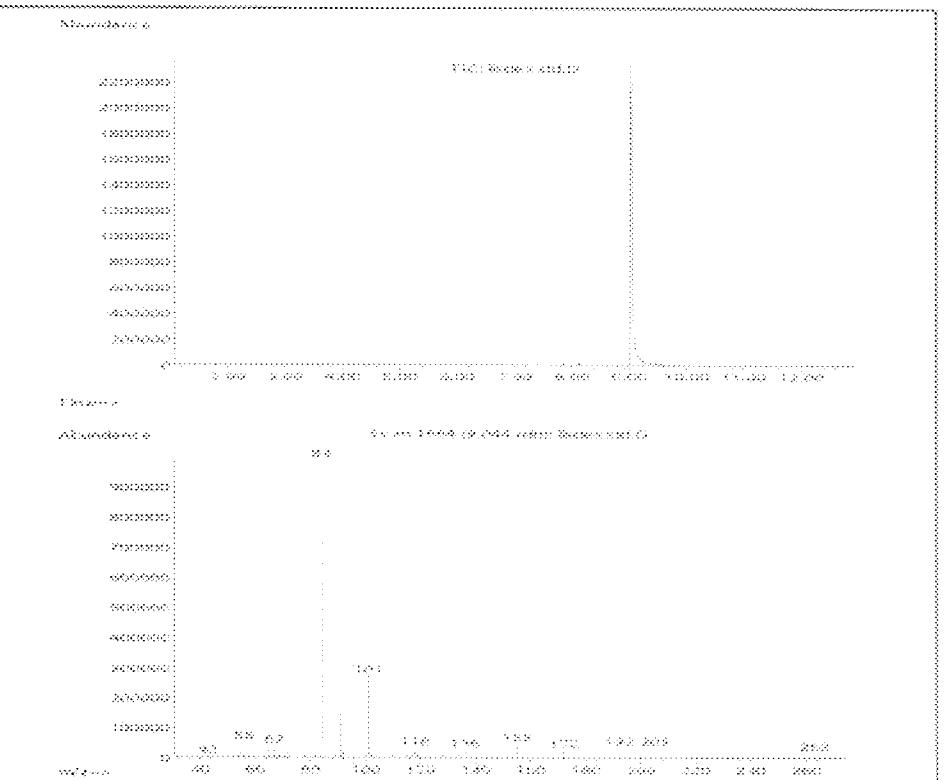


Fig. 3. DC and mass spectrum of *Heckeméamine*; MW = 263.14

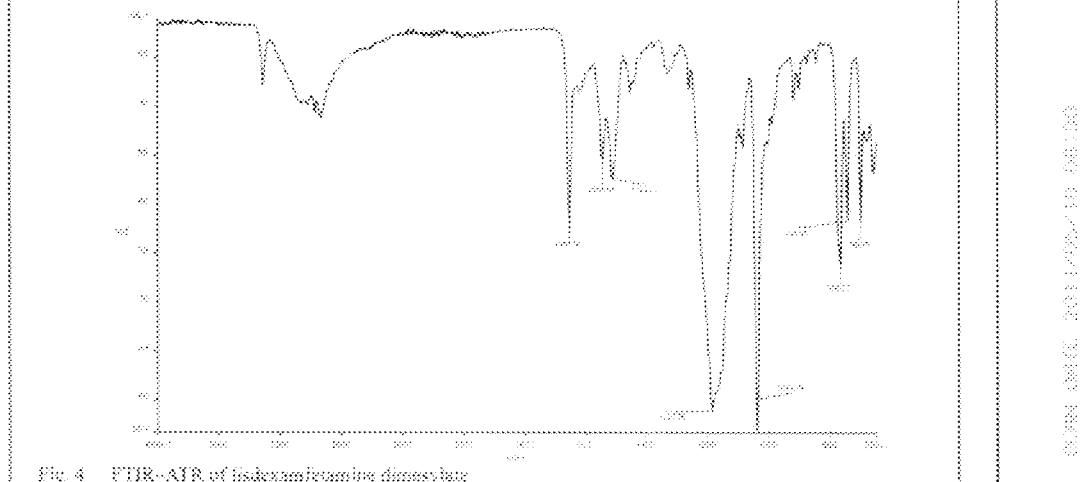


Fig. 4 FTIR-ATR of lidocamfluoxime disulfonate

Fig. 5. Total Ion Chromatogram (TIC) showing the presence of amphetamine.

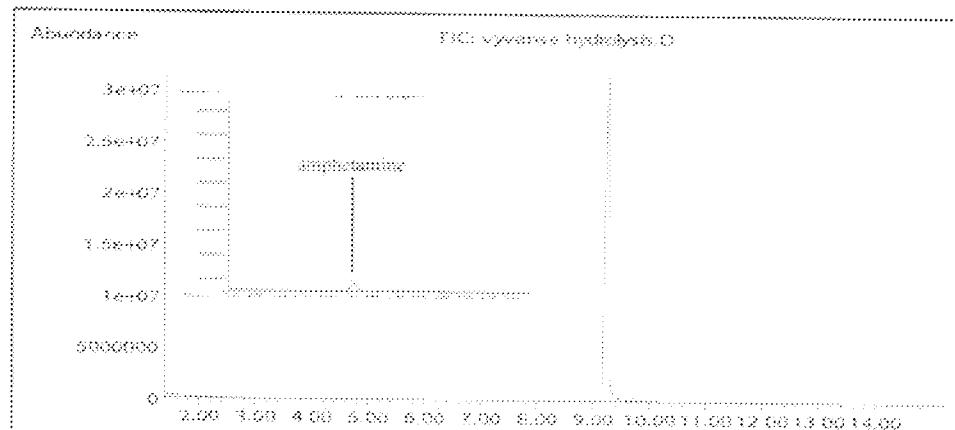


Fig. 5. TIC of amphetamine peak after alkaline hydrolysis of hexaconamine

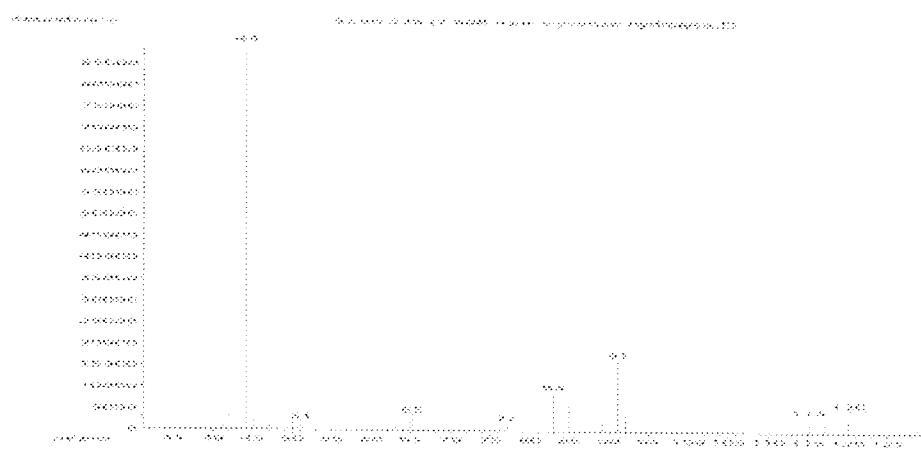


Fig. 6. Mass spectrum of amphetamine peak